

April 20, 2005

Dear Budget Committee Members and Conferees,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to urge that any conference agreement on the budget maintain the Senate position that reflects the bipartisan support of the Smith-Bingaman amendment, striking all Medicaid cuts to the budget and establishing a bipartisan Medicaid Commission (S.338/HR.985). The elimination of such cuts is essential for the health and long-term care of Medicaid enrollees, the providers who serve them, and state and local units of governments.

While we understand the enormous pressure you are under as a budget conferee, please remember that Medicaid is the essential source of health access for 53 million of our nation's most vulnerable citizens, and any changes to the program should be driven by policy and not by arbitrary budget numbers. The Senate's Budget Resolution recognizes this principle, and we urge you to maintain the Senate position and reject any reconciled cuts to Medicaid.

CC: United States Senate  
United States House of Representatives

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

Alliance for Children and Families

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Association

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

American Academy of Family Physicians

American Academy of Neurology

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry

American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Congress of Community Supports and Employment Services

American Counseling Association

American Dental Association

American Dental Education Association

American Dental Hygienists' Association

American Diabetes Association

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Foundation for the Blind

American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association

American Medical Student Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources  
American Nurses Association  
American Occupational Therapy Association  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Podiatric Medical Association  
American Psychiatric Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
Americans for Democratic Action  
Association for Community Affiliated Plans  
Association of Academic Physiatrists  
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America  
Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Catholic Charities USA  
Catholic Health Association  
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.  
Center for Disability Issues and the Health Professions  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)  
Children's Dental Health Project  
Children's Cause for Cancer Advocacy  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries  
Council of Women's and Infants' Specialty Hospitals  
Disability Service Providers of America  
Easter Seals  
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy and Action  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Every Child Matters Education Fund  
Families USA  
Family Voices  
Gay Men's Health Crisis  
Generations United  
Health and Disability Advocates  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Human Rights Campaign  
Institute for Reproductive Health Access  
International Association of Jewish Vocational Services  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Joint Public Affairs Committee for Older Adults (JPAC)  
Legal Action Center  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Alliance for the Mentally Ill  
National Alliance to End Homelessness  
**National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium**  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for the Advancement of Orthotics and Prosthetics  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Mental Health Planning and Advisory Councils  
National Association of Protection and Advocacy Systems  
National Association of School Psychologists  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare  
National Council of La Raza  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Council on the Aging  
National Education Association  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Council  
National Health Law Program  
National Indian Health Board  
National Medical Association  
National Mental Health Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Puerto Rican Coalition  
National Respite Coalition  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office  
Project Inform  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)  
RESULTS  
Service Employees International Union, (SEIU) AFL-CIO  
Society for Adolescent Medicine  
The Alan Guttmacher Institute  
The Arc of the United States

The National Partnership for Women & Families  
Title II Community AIDS National Network (TIICANN)  
U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG)  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Jewish Communities  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops  
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association  
USAction  
Voice of the Retarded  
Voices for America's Children  
Volunteers of America.  
Welfare Law Center  
Women of Reform Judaism  
World Institute on Disability